

# Missouri State Employee Awards of Distinction

## 2010 Award of Distinction Winners

### Heroism: John Taylor – Dept. of Corrections



Above — Al Luebbers, Warden of the Farmington Correctional Center [left], accepts the Heroism Award on behalf of Corrections Officer John Taylor from Governor Nixon

On November 1, 2009, at approximately 11:45 p.m. Corrections Officer I, John Taylor was on his way home from work at the Farmington Correctional Center when he observed a building on fire. Officer Taylor stopped and got out of his car and proceeded to a residence next to the building that was on fire and called emergency services to the site as the building became engulfed in flames and was beginning to set the residence nest to it ablaze.

While waiting for emergency services to arrive, Officer Taylor went to the residence that was beginning to catch fire where he found a family of five asleep. He evacuated the family from their burning home and placed the children in his vehicle to keep them warm while waiting for emergency personnel to arrive. Officer Taylor then proceeded to use a garden hose to help keep the home from becoming fully engulfed in flames until emergency service arrived on the scene and took over the firefighting efforts.

It is evident that the heroic actions taken by Officer Taylor undoubtedly saved the lives of this family. Officer John Taylor is a person who serves his community unselfishly and is someone to emulate.

### Human Relations: Paulette Bruch – Dept. of Corrections

Below: Paulette Bruch accepts the award for Human Relations from Governor Nixon.



Committee. Ms. Bruch actively works to collaborate with other state agencies, promote positive personal interaction among agency personnel, and champions public awareness of agency programs. Her positive attitude and dedication are helping to create a safer and more secure environment for all of the Missouri citizens.

Ms. Paulette Bruch, a Corrections Caseworker I, for the Department of Corrections—Women's Eastern Region, Diagnostic and Correctional Center has participated in numerous projects and assignments over the past year that have advanced the Missouri Reentry Process within the WERDCC and throughout the state. Her knowledge and experience have given her insight into what is possible and what might be some of the obstacles that would stand in the way of new ideas and initiatives.

She has worked to overcome those obstacles and has trained staff so that they can successfully integrate new ideas into their regular responsibilities. Some of those projects include: Revision of the Transition Accountability Plan Manual, Parenting from Prison Pilot Program, Inner-Faith Initiative Program, Pathways to Change Facilitator, and Missouri Reentry (MRP) Quality Control

### Innovative Suggestion of the Year: Alan Butterworth— Dept. of Corrections



Above (left) Alan Butterworth accepts the award for Innovative Suggestion of the Year from Governor Nixon

An ongoing desire of the Department of Corrections has been to reduce the amount of General Revenue funds used to pay for offender transportation to home upon their release. Mr. Alan Butterworth suggested the Department mandate a savings account for all offenders to offset these expenses thus reducing the number of tickets purchased with Inmate Wage and Discharge Funds. He recommended that an automated savings account system be developed to set aside funds to cover transportation expenses up to \$150. Upon release these funds would be loaded onto a debit card to pay for release expenses. In the event where family was taking care of transportation costs the savings could be used to help the offender transition back into the community.

In September 2009 a task force was formed to "Review current procedures and statutes with the purpose of enhancing savings opportunities and programs for incarcerated offenders." Early on the group identified a purpose statement "To enhance re-entry savings initiatives for incarcerated offenders to provide a greater opportunity for successful return to the community". This task force is now ready to present their finding to the Executive Staff and has recommended three savings options to consider.

Mr. Butterworth's recommendation along with other initiatives of the department has resulted in proposals that will benefit the offender by making him/her responsible for transportation and other transition needs and save the Department money.

## Leadership: GERALYN MEEKER – Dept. of Mental Health

Below: GERALYN MEEKER accepts the award for Leadership from Governor Nixon



As an educator in the instruction of students of normal and impaired learning ability Ms. Geraldyn Meeker teaches Math, English, Social Studies, and Science and continually modifies her teaching material to reach the education needs of all her pupils. This caring Educator continually strives not only to meet learning needs but also does many special things through her normal work day. She brings in snacks for ward staff, donates items for bake sale fund raisers for client needs, and raises morale by remembering her co-workers special days and milestones.

When the social program was understaffed for several months, Ms. Meeker stepped in and helped fulfill the required duties. Additionally when the Facility lost an educational aide she took on some of those duties as well. As the only Educator for the Facility Ms. Meeker often works well beyond the normal scope of her job requirements, yet she continues to meet any duty with a positive attitude and doesn't stop until the education needs of each person are met.

Not many realize how often she goes above and beyond the call of duty. If a school is closing she will contact the school and ask for book donations and other learning material, works with local department stores to obtain holiday decorations, and sometimes purchases items from her own pocketbook to make her student's process easier. Ms. Geraldyn Meeker is a key piece of the puzzle for the Dept. of Mental Health and St. Louis Psychiatric Rehabilitation Center.

## Leadership: TIM WHOLF – Dept. of Corrections

Right: Governor Nixon presents the award for Leadership to Tim Wholf



Tim Wholf's outstanding leadership began the day he stepped into District 19. He leads by example and strives to make District 19 a great place to work. Tim has listened to staff concerns regarding imbalance of work and caseload and made changes that were beneficial for all. As Chairman of the Statewide Policy and Procedure Work Group he has first-hand knowledge of the new supervision protocol implemented in 2009. Along with members of the supervisory team he developed caseloads in an effort to maximize the impact based on caseload numbers versus staff. After 6 months he re-evaluated how it was working and brought staff back together as the workload was still unbalanced and staff had expressed concerns about effectiveness. By looking at all options he was able to justify filling a vacant staff position and secured an additional position to distribute workload more evenly.

Tim also recognizes staff regularly for their efforts and celebrates success. In addition, he was instrumental in developing a standout Victims' Rights Week activity that involved communities served by the District. He recently assembled a group to work on a lunch for community partner in conjunction with Victims' Rights Week and during Probation and Parole officer Week in 2009 he distributed tokens of

appreciation purchased from various fund raising activities. Staff enjoyed refreshments and an afternoon of fun team building activities. In addition to his normal duties Tim is also MULES certified and is instrumental in aiding clerical and staff when issues arise relative to MULES. Tim Wholf is always seeking ways to improve office morale and encourages staff to seek new levels of potential. Mr. Tim Wholf truly defines the definition of leadership.

## Public Service: KYLE LAIRMORE – Dept. of Conservation

Below left: Kyle Lairmore accepts the award for Public Service from Governor Nixon



As the Private Land Conservationist for the Central Region, Kyle Lairmore works tirelessly to get Missourians excited about the outdoors and is committed to the Dept. of Conservation (MDC) and his involvement and participation on several workgroups. Kyle has also been recognized as a leader in the conservation movement in Missouri with his involvement with the Conservation Federation of Missouri, specifically the Conservation Leadership Corps, where he has an opportunity to network with other volunteers and natural resource professionals and help students and young professionals as they begin their careers in the natural resources fields. Additionally Kyle has also been recognized by the Missouri Conservation Federation as Conservation Educator of the Year, a credit to the work he has been doing to further conservation in Missouri.

One of his most outstanding achievements was the recent Mid-Missouri Dream Hunters-youth with Special Needs Hunt. This unique event, founded by Kyle and like-minded sportsmen, provides youth with special needs the opportunity to experience the outdoors, gives lifelong memories, and provides education and the tools needed to adopt a lifestyle that includes hunting and a love for the outdoors. In

FY09 the event received national recognition as the Best Wheelin' Sportsman Award from the National Wild Turkey Federation. When you think of Kyle Lairmore words like Expert, Leader, Professional, Teacher, Student, Mentor and Friend come to mind. Kyle exemplifies what it means to be a Conservation Professional and the MDC and Missouri citizens are well served by public servant—Kyle Lairmore.



## 2009 Award of Distinction Winners

**Public Service:** Andy Dalton Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center - Dept. of Conservation  
Mike Brooks; Dan Vanderhoef; Keith DeBow; Andy Rhodes; David Crews; Ali Underwood; Charles Estep

Below — Governor Nixon [center], John Hoskins, Director of the Dept. of Conservation [far left] congratulate the winners of the award for Public Service [also pictured are co-workers and family members]



For the past five years the “Dalton Gang” has been taking Public Service to an unbelievable level with their commitment to Missourians, especially those with disabilities. Partnering with the Southwest Center for Independent Living and the National Wild Turkey Federation, these Missouri Conservation Department team members have created a “Day at the Range” event which has grown to become one of the nation’s top events in connecting and in many cases reconnecting Missourians with outdoor opportunities they never dreamed possible.

With the assistance of volunteers, many of the participants experience for the first time activities such as fishing, archery, air guns, rifles, and even shooting at moving targets with shotguns. Mike and his staff, along with help through the Southwest Center

for Independent Living have designed, invented, and modified all sorts of equipment allowing participants to reel in their own fish they catch, as well as shoot a gun or bow. With the focus being on giving the participants a sense of freedom, many of them are connecting with nature in ways never dreamed possible. And thanks to a little ingenuity, many have gone on to purchase their own equipment using the innovations made possible by Mike and his staff.

This past fall [2008] nine members of the Mt. Vernon Veterans group home took part in a muzzleloader hunt and four deer were harvested and over the past several years many animals have been harvested giving many of the hunters a feeling of freedom long thought unattainable. The ultimate goal of the team is to give these individuals the confidence to go out on their own and be successful in spite of their life challenge.

## Human Relations: Sonja Harden - Dept. of Conservation

Below: Governor Nixon [right of center], John Hoskins, Director of the Dept. of Conservation [far right] recognizes Sonja Harden, winner of the award for Human Relations [also pictured are co-workers and family members]



As a Public Service Assistant Sonja works as the primary contact person to the public by answering the telephone, customer service, and assisting other employees with projects. However, what Sonja actually does is much more; she goes above and beyond her duties on a daily basis making every day important to our constituents. All are accomplished with a smile and a laugh.

The volume of calls Sonja receives is high, but during the hunting season, it is nonstop. This requires her to not only direct the calls, to the appropriate staff member, but to also address the endless questions about hunting and to be knowledgeable to intricacies of regulations. Sometimes a call for another regional office is received and instead of redirecting the call she will take care of the matter whether it is a request for an area brochure or simply looking up the telephone number of another state agency such as DNR or the Corps of Engineers. All calls are answered with her cheerful voice and each receives her undivided attention.

Although some visitors stop in with a purpose, others come in just to look around at the exhibits and displays. Sonja always politely asks how she may help them, whether it is a grandfather who brings his young granddaughter every week or the young boy who colors pictures for “his friend” to display in her desk area. A local residential care facility brings in their patients in wheelchairs once a week and these stakeholders know Sonja by name and face. Sonja treats everyone equally – with kindness and patience and, of course, a smile.

Occasionally Sonja is also asked to help with projects for other divisions. She assisted the Fisheries Regional Supervisor in collaboration with the City of Kirksville, Adair County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Natural Resource Conservation Service to organize a Water Conservation Festival. Her efforts found a life-sized crayfish costume and also she recruited someone to wear it. Sonja’s organizational skills and creativity produced a successful event. One of her finest qualities is her dependability and dedication to the Department of Conservation. On several occasions, she has rearranged her personal schedule to accommodate special requests. One time Sonja changed her time off so she would be in the office when a large group came for an exhibit tour. Sonja truly makes a difference to the internal and external stakeholder and gives the Missouri Department of Conservation a great reputation for being a public service agency to help with all your needs.

## Innovative Suggestion of the Year: Betty Hundley – Dept. of Corrections

Below—Betty Hundley, Department of Corrections, receives the award for Innovative Suggestion of the Year from Governor Nixon. Also pictured is George Lombardi [far right] Director of the Dept. of Corrections; co-workers and family members.



Among Betty Hundley's day-to-day responsibilities as a Personnel Manager is overseeing all functions of the Personnel Office are managed smoothly. She keeps upper management up-to-date with information and advice regarding personnel matters, and relating policies to specific needs. Additionally she directs the maintenance of personnel files and records, prepares reports and processing of all personnel actions in conformity with agency and Merit System policies, rules and regulations.

Ms. Hundley went above and beyond her normal job requirements when she suggested the use of electronic certified mail for letters that are required to be sent via certified mail. Prior to the suggestion the cost was \$2.15 for each piece of certified mail sent with a return original receipt.

Betty's suggestion indicated that her idea would not only save the state \$1.30 on each piece of certified mail sent, it would also make available electronically the status of the item, if it was picked up, if it was not delivered, and will make available an electronic signature; all within a shorter time period. It was determined that the idea would save money not only for the Dept. of Corrections, but for agencies across the state would also speed up the process. Dept. of Corrections worksites were notified of the process and advised to use the new method whenever possible. The Boonville Correctional Center has been using the new process and estimates the total savings for a year—for their institution alone—will be almost \$700. Once fully implemented, the electronic certified mail process will be a huge savings for not only the Dept. of Corrections, but for all state agencies.

## Safety and Heroism: Beth Morris – Dept. of Health and Senior Services

Below—Beth Morris, Dept. of Health and Senior Services receives the Safety and Heroism Award from the Governor Nixon. Also pictured is Margaret Donnelley [right of Governor Nixon], Director of the Dept. of Health and Senior Services, co-workers and family members.



Beth Morris works as a Facility Inspector and is responsible for the on-site inspection of state licensed long term care facilities to ensure compliance with state licensure regulations and to promote and protect the health, safety, and welfare of facility residents. However recently Beth took the responsibility of safety outside the scope of the workplace.

Late last year Ms. Morris and her husband were driving past a Springfield Walgreen's Drug Store and Beth's attention was captured by an elderly lady making her way across the parking lot to her car. Beth noticed that a young female had begun quickly pursuing this elderly woman from behind without the woman's knowledge.

Ms. Morris immediately changed course and drove into the parking lot and quickly exited her car and approached the elderly woman, who was by this time, being pushed into her own vehicle by the younger lady. Beth intervened and asked if the elder needed assistance. The apparent assailant told Beth that the lady was sick and she was trying to get her home. Beth continued to talk with the elderly woman and came to realize that she was not associated with the young lady. Upon making this determination Beth's husband entered the store and requested the manager to call 911 while Beth continued to console the 88 year old woman. The young apparent assailant fled the scene before law enforcement arrived.

Beth's observation and quick action obviously interrupted the commission of a serious crime. Her quick thinking and unhesitatingly actions and disregard for her own safety to aid and protect an elder citizen is to be commended. Ms. Morris demonstrates her passion for protecting our seniors on a daily basis through her work and has now taken her passion and her professionalism a step further and demonstrated her willingness to protect our elderly at any time and at any place.

# 2008 Award of Distinction Winners

## Human Relations: Connie Weissgerber – Dept. of Social Services

Below —Ms. Weissgerber receives the Human Relations Award from the Governor's Chief of Staff, Trish Vincent and Brian Kinkade, Deputy Director for the Dept. of Social Services.



As the first point of contact for the Children's Division, Connie Weissgerber's job of receptionist can be very hectic and demanding. However, Connie always manages to provide a calm and caring attitude, even when faced with frustrated clients. Connie is someone who consistently has a courteous and professional attitude and will go out of her way to help her peers as well as customers. One example of Connie's helpful attitude is the daily Family Support Team Meeting Calendar Connie developed that includes the names of people scheduled to attend various functions in the division. Connie uses the calendar to direct each person to the right contact or meeting room in a smooth and timely fashion keeping everyone on track and focused on the work that needs to be done.

Another example of Connie's skills is her ability to recognize the stress and feelings of embarrassment that can be part of a family visit to a facility. Consequently, Connie ensures that immediate intake coverage for all families is maintained throughout the day so no one has to wait in a reception area very long to receive assistance. The Department of Social Services and the citizens of Missouri are well served by Connie Weissgerber's dedication and optimism.

## Public Service: Judge Linda Wenman - Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relations

**Below**—Todd Smith, Director of the Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relations, gives remarks on Ms. Wenman's accomplishment. Ms Wenman was unable to attend; Director Smith accepted on her behalf.



As an Administrative Law Judge Linda Wenman not only takes work home to assure that cases are thoughtfully decided and written, but she also takes on the challenges and responsibilities of giving back to the community. In 1966 a group of lawyers and judges in Missouri founded "Kids' Chance of Missouri" with the goal to raise money and give scholarships to children of men and women killed or seriously disabled in work-related injuries. Donations are raised through, golf tournaments, seminars, "cosmic" bowling, and other events and have awarded more than 400 scholarship checks totaling nearly \$850,000. Linda's involvement includes organizing and planning meetings and events, presentations, serving on committees, and serving as a board member and executive committee president.

Six years ago, Linda helped to found a national organization to assist other states start similar organizations. There are now 26 other states with charities of this type. During the past two years she has been instrumental in formalizing "Kids' Chance of America" and has written by-laws, drafted ethical rules, set agendas, and prepared presentations to promote this outstanding organization. Additionally, she has used her own money and personal time to travel to various cities for the annual "Kids' Chance" conference to promote the national organization and to encourage more states to join. Ms. Wenman is not only an exceptional judge, she is a "point of light" who makes a difference everyday in the lives of others.

## Human Relations: Richard Barnes- Dept. of Natural Resources

*Below —Mr. Barnes receives the Human Relations Award from the Governor's Chief of Staff, Trish Vincent and Doyle Childers, Director, Dept. of*



Richard Barnes' dedication to the Dept. of Natural Resources' Southwest Regional Office extends far beyond his duties as an Environmental Specialist. In addition to his normal duties of responding to client complaints, tracking violations of Clean Air Act Regulations, and providing technical assistance to our customers, Richard also gives back to the community. As a volunteer, Richard offers his services to many groups. Since 1998, Richard has organized and encouraged staff of the Blood Center Southwest Regional Office to donate blood to the Community Blood Center – and since that time, staff have donated over 50 gallons of blood.

To encourage and promote positive employee relations among his fellow co-workers, Richard has organized a float trip for regional staff for the past 10 years, and has helped cook food for holiday celebrations, staff recognition lunches and many other occasions. Not only does he volunteer and act as the lead for staff events, Richard has for the past 10 years worked as a volunteer at the Missouri State Fair, and provided volunteer services at the Ozark Empire Fair. He consistently helps out and has volunteered several times at the James River Basin

Partnership River Rescue to clean the river of debris, assisted with the Table Rock Lake cleanup, and for the last 6 years, manned a booth at the University of Missouri Southwest Center's Annual Field Day.

Richard gives his personal time to friends, co-workers and neighbors extending a hand to assist with yard work, household repair, cleaning up a flooded basement; the list could go on and on. Richard's commitment to always be the best he can be makes him someone we should all strive to emulate.



**Safety and Heroism: Dustin Kuebler – Dept. of Natural Resources**

Below—Mr. Kuebler receives the Safety and Heroism Award from the Governor’s Chief of Staff, Trish Vincent and Doyle Childers, Director of the Dept. of Natural Resources.



doubtlessly prevented the situation from becoming more severe. Dustin daily displays the type of attributes people turn to in difficult times and can always be counted on to be there when needed.

Last year – on March 24 – Mr. Dustin Kuebler was at home in his garage when he heard his neighbor crying and screaming trying to get his attention. She was hysterical and Dustin had difficulty understanding what she was trying to tell him. Seconds later, her panic stricken husband ran up to Dustin and asked if he knew CPR. Dustin replied that he did whereby the man thrust his life-less looking infant son into Dustin’s arms.

Dustin told the father to call 911 and assessed the child’s condition. He thought he detected a faint breath when he placed the infants’ mouth next to his cheek. Dustin then knelt down and massaged the child’s chest with his fingers. After a few moments, the baby whimpered and began to open his eyes. When the authorities arrived the child was stable and was taken to a hospital. Examination of the baby showed that the child had a high fever and had suffered a seizure as a result of the fever.

Dustin’s training in CPR helped him remain calm and focused on providing the necessary care for his neighbor’s son. His prompt action may have saved the life of this child and

**Safety and Heroism: Jonathan Korn – Dept. of Corrections**

Below—Corrections Officer Jonathon Korn receives the Safety and Heroism Award from the Governor’s Chief of Staff, Trish Vincent and Larry Crawford, Director of the Dept. of Corrections.



condition of the vehicle, the deputies and Officer Korn were not able to save the young woman’s life. While there is obviously much sadness connected with this event, Officer Jonathon Korn’s unselfish act and willingness to act in a deadly situation make him an example of a true hero.

On a daily basis Corrections Officer Jonathon Korn works to provide security and safety for the Farmington Correctional Center, and also for the offenders under his care and supervision.

Last year, on December 6, Officer Korn took the description of the word heroism to a higher level. As he was driving home after his evening shift, he noticed a car on the side of the road that was on fire. Although two Washington County Sheriff Deputies were already on the scene, he pulled over to see if he could offer any assistance. He saw that a woman was trapped unconscious behind the steering wheel of the burning car. After a brief discussion, the deputies accepted Officer Korn’s offer of assistance and he immediately entered the car from the back seat and tried to free her by pulling on the young woman’s right arm. He then observed that the woman’s legs were caught under the collapsed dash board and called to the deputies for assistance. In only a matter of seconds, however, the fire spread throughout the interior of the vehicle and the flames were hitting Officer Korn and the deputies in their faces. Only at the insistence of the deputies after continuing to free the young woman did Officer Korn reluctantly exit the vehicle. Unfortunately, due to the seriousness of the crash and the

**Innovative Suggestion of the Year: Elizabeth Martin – Dept. of Social Services**

Below—Elizabeth Martin receives the Innovative Suggestion of the Year Award from the Governor’s Chief of Staff, Trish Vincent and Brian Kinkade, Deputy Director of the Dept. of Social Services.



ready for children to be authorized to them. This will shorten the gap between the time that care begins and their payment is processed. Previously workers had to set daily personal reminders to check on the provider's registration status and often the worker did not know the process was complete until contacted by the provider who was asking about their payment. This enhancement will improve both internal and external customer service by connecting two processes that are currently independent.

Elizabeth A. Martin, a Family Support Eligibility Supervisor in Shannon County, submitted a suggestion to create a new screen in the agency's program specific computer system the Family Assistance Management Information System (FAMIS). Her suggestion was submitted because children could not be authorized in the FAMIS system to a daycare provider who was not registered or licensed. In addition, the worker was not notified when the registration process was completed and thus could not authorize the children. Providers then became frustrated due to the length of time between the date they begin caring for the child and their payment date.

The new suggested screen will allow workers to enter the provider's name, and allow the system to generate an alert to the worker when the registration process is complete. This suggestion will also require standardization of provider names. This standardization will make the process more efficient and ensure the correct worker receives the necessary alert, thereby getting payments to providers in a timely manner.

Another benefit from this suggestion is that it will notify workers when a new provider is

## 2007 Award Winners

### Valor: Jason Asher – Dept. of Corrections



Above from left: Larry Crawford, Director of the Dept. of Corrections; Governor's Chief of Staff, Ed Martin; Jason Asher—Dept. of Corrections

Jason Asher, Locksmith with the Chillicothe Correctional Center was home from work to take one of his children to the dentist. Shortly after 7:00 AM he responded to a knock at his door to find a neighbor telling him to call 911 because the house across the street was on fire. When Jason looked across the street he could see smoke coming from one of the windows. As it happens, Jason knew the homeowners very well.

While Jason assumed that the family was not at home, he also knew they had two dogs inside. Without hesitation Jason ran across the street and broke out the window next to the door to get inside the home to try to rescue the animals. Once inside he could see flames on the east side of the home and heavy smoke.

What Jason didn't know at the time is that the home owner was home asleep just one room away from the blaze. Jason's calls to the animals awakened him who came to the stairs to see who was in his house. The home owner had inhaled enough smoke by the time he heard Jason's voice to become disoriented, but managed to come downstairs and the two men were able to get one of the dogs and themselves out of the house before succumbing to the toxic smoke. All-in-all, Jason's heroic and courageous actions resulted in saving the life of a friend and neighbor.

### Valor: Marvin Skiles – Dept. of Corrections



Above from left: Larry Crawford, Director of the Dept. of Corrections; Governor's Chief of Staff, Ed Martin; Marvin Skiles—Dept. of Corrections

On Sunday, August 6 of 2007, Marvin Skiles, Labor Supervisor with the Farmington Correctional Center, and his wife were traveling on highway 67 on route to St. Louis. When approaching the Valle Mines exit they observed an SUV pulling a camping trailer starting to swerve. The driver of the SUV lost control and the vehicle and camper jack-knifed turning the SUV and camper onto their sides in the ditch by the side of the road.

Without thought or concern for his own personal safety, Mr. Skiles immediately pulled to the side of the road and ran to the SUV while his wife called 911. Even though the SUV was already smoking, Marvin proceeded to climb onto the vehicle, break the windows, and get the occupants out. Soon after, the SUV was on fire.

First responders had arrived on the scene by then and were able to deal with the fire and provide first aid. However, without Marvin's quick thinking and disregard for this own safety, those individuals could have easily sustained life-threatening injuries.

### Shining Star: Jo Anderson – Dept. of Health and Senior Services



Above left: Jane Drummond, Director of the Dept. of Health and Senior Services; Governor's Chief of Staff, Ed Martin; Jo Anderson-Dept. of Health and Senior Services

In today's world of advanced technology, there are still millions of people going about their everyday lives oblivious to their health status and the dangers of developing diabetes.

Jo Anderson, Program Coordinator for the Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, made a decision to address this issue and took on the monumental task of forming a committee of professionals, from both within and outside state government, to accomplish this groundbreaking task.

The final product of this group combined the American Diabetes Association Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes into a format that identifies persons previously not diagnosed with pre-diabetes or diabetes in a medical setting. This committee, under Jo's direction and encouragement, came to consensus of not only how to go about screening individuals, but also on treatment strategies to match the screening guidelines. As a result of this effort, the citizens of Missouri now have a common platform from which to assess and possibly avert an onset of a diabetic epidemic.



## Shining Star: Georgiana Hawkins – Dept. of Corrections

Below left: Larry Crawford, Director of the Dept. of Corrections; Governor's Chief of Staff, Ed Martin; Georgian Hawkins – Dept. of Corrections



Georgiana Hawkins works with overseeing the daily activities and the compliance of rules and regulations for juveniles assigned to her care. Her positive and enthusiastic approach towards life is reflected not only in her duties with Northeast Correctional Center, but also in her involvement in the community.

Georgiana is one of the original board members who founded PYRFEECT – Parents and Youth Reaching for Education, Excellence and Cultural Togetherness – whose primary objective is to educate both youngsters and adults and to expose them to positive incentives which helps them become well-rounded citizens, and encourages them to volunteer in local organizations. Group outings have allowed members to experience NBA games, lectures, theatre events, and the type of behavior expected in formal settings, where by example of a role model, they receive an example of the kinds of citizens to emulate.

They began writing grants and bringing in guest speakers to assist and encourage educating participants. Guest speakers included civic leaders, sports heroes, motivational speakers and Assistant U.S. Attorney General, Mr. Larry Thompson. It would appear by the growing popularity of PYRFEECT that their chances for success are growing too, thanks to Georgiana Hawkins.

## 2006 Award Winners

### Valor: Denise Schuetz – Dept. of Health and Senior Services



Left: Denise Schuetz, Office Support Assistant for the Department of Health and Senior Services, received the Governor's Award for Valor from Governor Blunt and Department of Health and Senior Services Director Julie Eckstein, for her bravery in service.

On January 27, 2005, two fellow employees were having lunch when a piece of food slipped down one employee's throat blocking the employee's air passage. The employee was unable to breath.

Fortunately, Denise Schuetz acted quickly using the Heimlich maneuver to dislodge the piece of food and clear the employee's throat. It was a nervous moment, but the fact that Denise was there and acted without hesitation very likely saved a fellow employee's life.

### Valor: Tammy Pew – Dept. of Public Safety



Left: Governor Matt Blunt, along with Department of Public Safety Director, Mark James, presents Tammy Pew with the Governor's Award for Valor.

Last year, while attending to her scheduled duties, Tammy Pew was called to the room of a Veteran who was unresponsive. Tammy immediately assessed his condition, and communicated critical life-saving directions to other employees.

This allowed Tammy to begin CPR chest compressions and rescue breaths within moments of entering the Veteran's room. Tammy's quick thinking and unwavering actions saved the life of this Veteran

### Valor: Lee Ann Kelly – Dept. of Transportation



(Left) Lee Ann Kelly receives the Governor's Award for Valor from Governor Matt Blunt and Department of Transportation Chief Financial Officer, Roberta Broeker, for acting heroically not once, but twice when tragedy struck two times near a repaving project on Route 61 through Moscow Mills.

A man was thrown from his motorcycle landing on the centerline, with the cycle in the middle of the passing lane. Lee Ann diverted traffic, and using her knowledge of first-aid, enlisted a bystander to hold the gentleman's head while she cared for him until an ambulance arrived to transport him to a hospital. A few weeks later, another accident occurred at Route 61 and U south of Troy, MO. Lee Ann ran to the wrecked car where the driver was unconscious sitting upright in his seat. Lee Ann placed his head in the correct position, opened his airway, and made sure he was breathing until emergency responders could reach the scene. Local law enforcement credited Ms. Kelly with saving the lives of both drivers.



### Shining Star: Joe Sampson – Dept. of Corrections



(Left) Governor Matt Blunt along with Department of Corrections (DOC) Director, Larry Crawford, presents the Shining Star Award to Joe Sampson an employee with the Easter Region Diagnostic and Reception Center.

Joe is actively involved in the Center's Special Olympics Committee, Muscular Dystrophy Association, contributes to the local food pantry—and at Christmas conducts a food and toy drive. Additionally he organized several drives to collect items to send to employees who are stationed overseas on military assignments.

Joe's contributions to the community are abundant; he is an unspoken leader in fundraising for various charities and is actively involved in the Eastern Region Diagnostic (on behalf of the DOC Employees) who for the past four consecutive years has led all state agencies in contribution to the Missouri State Charitable Campaign.

Joe's contributions to the community are abundant and his kindness to others benefits not only employees, but the local community.

### Shining Star: Montgomery City Youth Center Cottage Staff – Dept. of Social Services



(Right) The Department of Social Services, Division of youth Services; Montgomery City Youth Center Cottage Staff, received the Shining Star Award from Governor Matt Blunt.

This group planned and facilitated Family Fun Day last July. Family Fun Day consisted of a barbeque and various games and activities. The event encourages parents and their families to visit their sons more often at the Center. In fact, several families that had never visited the facility before attended this Family event. As you may imagine, continued family support, in the context of a family member's treatment program, is very important towards achieving individual goals while encouraging and strengthening family bonds. A proud accomplishment – and one that is truly deserving of this award.

Justin Luetjen (team leader) receives the award on behalf of this team from Governor Matt Blunt. Other team members (standing) included: Deanna Davis, Dave Sisk, Terri Garland, Bobbie Norton, Cindy Ray, Belinda Williams, Joe Branson, and Dottie Dunn.

### Shining Star: Ruby Daniel – Dept. of Social Services



(Left) Governor Matt Blunt along with Department of Social Services Director, Gary Sherman, presents the Shining Star Award to Ruby Daniel. Ruby recently received an award from the Missouri Valley Community Action Agency for her service to the Ray County community. Ruby was honored for always going the extra mile to help partnering agencies and for her cheerful, friendly manner. Missouri Valley stated that Ruby really shows compassion for those seeking help through their office. Missouri Valley stated that our in-common customers also speak very highly of Ruby and the way she makes the Family Support Office experiences a friendly experience.

Ruby "treats everyone like a person," cares about their needs, asks about their family, and remembers their names. The staff at Missouri Valley state that Ruby's dedication to her job and community has helped make tough times for Missouri citizens a little easier to face. Ruby Daniel makes our customer service "shine" in Ray County.

### Missouri Relies on Everyone [MoRE] Employee Suggestion System: Dorothy Sessions – Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relations



(Below) Dorothy Session, employee with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, receives her award from Governor Matt Blunt and Acting Director Katharine Barondeau.

Ms. Session made the suggestion to change the arrangement of the titles on the State's Home Page to make the Missouri Works link more accessible and easier to find, thus saving time and frustration for individuals who need to verify state employment information quickly.

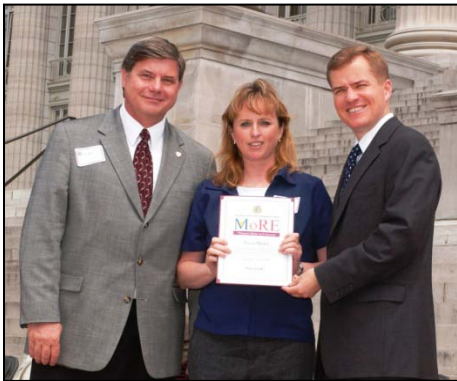
**Missouri Relies on Everyone [MoRE] Employee Suggestion System:** Anna Beckett – Dept. of Social Services



(Left) Governor Matt Blunt and Gary Sherman, Director of the Department of Social Services, awards Anna Beckett for her suggestion that recognized child care providers who invoice online can only be paid for hours authorized in the Family Assistance Management Information System (FAMIS). However, for any number of reasons, more care hours may be required than authorized.

Anna suggested to cross reference the online invoicing of child care providers with FAMIS. As a result, if/when the child care provider is billing for more hours than currently authorized, FAMIS will send an alert to the provider telling them to contact their Family Services Office. This enables the provider to have an early warning of a potential conflict and resolve it in less time.

**Missouri Relies on Everyone [MoRE] Employee Suggestion System – Tresa Myler – Dept. of Corrections**



(Left) Tresa Myler, an employee with the Department of Corrections, receives her award from Governor Matt Blunt and Department Director Larry Crawford.

Tresa suggested that clients who arrive for appointments with Probation and Parole officers should have their name and appointment time entered into Lotus Organizer. This procedure would allow officers to check their own computers to see when new clients have arrived instead of being paged or interrupted before they have finished with other clients. As few offices across the state have receptionist positions, implementation of this suggestion would make a significant impact both in quality and efficiency.

**Missouri Relies on Everyone [MoRE] Employee Suggestion System – Ann Bland – Dept. of Social Services**



(Left) Governor Matt Blunt and Gary Sherman, Director of the Department of Social Services present Judith Ann Bland with her award.

Judith made a suggestion for FAMIS regarding income expense codes allowed for certain types of income. Because not all codes can be used, finding out which codes can be used for specific types of income and which cannot often takes time and leads to some frustration. To make the process of selecting the appropriate expense codes for each type of income run smoother, Judith suggested that FAMIS screens show only the allowable expense or deduction codes for each specific type of income.

**Longevity:** Phill Knott – Dept. of Transportation



(Left) Department of Transportation employee, Phill Knott, accepts the Longevity Award for 47 years of service to the State of Missouri, from Governor Matt Blunt and Roberta Broeker, Department of Transportation Chief Financial Officer



**Longevity:** Paul Jungmeyer – Dept. of Transportation



(Left)

Governor Matt Blunt and Roberta Broeker, Department of Transportation Chief Financial Officer present employee Paul Jungmeyer, the Longevity Award for 48 years of service to the State of Missouri

**Longevity:** Ruby Daniel – Dept. of Social Services



(Left)

Department of Social Services employee, Ruby Daniel, accepts the Longevity Award for 49 years of service to the State of Missouri, from Governor Matt Blunt and Gary Sherman, Director, Department of Social Services

**Longevity:** Carl Engelbrecht – Dept. of Conservation



(Left)

Carl Engelbrecht, Department of Conservation employee, accepts the Longevity Award for 50 years of service to the State of Missouri, from Governor Matt Blunt and John Smith, Deputy Director, Department of Conservation